

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 AF-10 EUR-12 TRSE-00 /095 W

-----020395 012116Z /61

R 011450Z DEC 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9795

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 6969

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO, EG, XF

SUBJECT: WEST BANK MAYOR'S STATEMENT ON THE SADAT INITIATIVE

1. CONGEN OFFICER DEC 1 WAS BRIEFED BY HALHUL'S MAYOR MULHIM ON ATTEMPTS BY WEST BANK MAYORS TO COORDINATE A RESPONSE TO THE RECENT INITIATIVES OF PRESIDENT SADAT.

2. MULHIM READ AT LENGTH FROM A POSITION PAPER DRAFTED WITHIN THE PAST WEEK IN RAMALLAH BY A COMMITTEE INCLUDING NABLUS' SHAKA', HEBRON'S QAWASIMA, RAMALLAH'S KHALAF, TULKARM'S HANOUN AND HIMSELF. MULHIM SAID THE POSITION HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY OTHER MUNICIPALITIES AS WELL. (BETHLEHEM'S FREIJ TOLD CONGEN DEC 1 THAT HE AND MAYOR OF BEIT SAHUR DID NOT SIGN, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF STANDARD ALLUSION TO PLO AS SOLE LEGITIMATE SPOKESMAN.)

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3. IN ITS PREFACE, THE STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE SADAT VISIT AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI WITH WHICH THE ARAB STATES AND THE PLO MUST NOW DEAL. ONLY SADAT'S OMISSION OF THE PLO IN HIS KNESSET SPEECH IS CRITICIZED. NO MENTION IS MADE OF THE US. IN ITS OPERATIVE SECTION, THE STATEMENT:
-- CITES THE SACRIFICES OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE FOR THE ARAB AND PALESTINIAN CAUSES RECOGNIZES HER CONTINUED IMPORTANCE,

AND CALLS FOR HER CONTINUED EFFORTS;

-- CALLS FOR ARAB UNITY;

-- CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY BEHIND THE PLO;

-- CALLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UNGA RESOLUTION 3236 WHICH
GUARANTEES PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

4. A COPY OF THE STATEMENT WILL BE SENT TO PRESIDENT
SADAT AS AN OLIVE BRANCH, MULHIM SAID. A COPY WILL ALSO
BE SENT TO YASSIR ARAFAT. MULHIM SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY WITH
THE NEGATIVE STAND TAKEN BY THE PLO THUS FAR AND CLEARLY
IMPLIED THAT THE WEST BANK MAYORS WANTED TO ENCOURAGE PLO
MODERATION. TO THIS END, NABLUS' MAYOR BASSAM SHAKA',
WHO LEFT TO AMMAN AND POINTS BEYOND, NOV 30, WILL MEET
WITH PLO LEADERS INCLUDING ARAFAT IN BEIRUT OR ELSEWHERE,
MULHIM SAID. SHAKA' ITINERARY WILL ALSO INCLUDE
TRIPOLI, NOW CONSIDERED NABLUS' TWIN CITY, ACCORDING TO
MULHIM.

5. COMMENT: AS MULHIM PRESENTED IT, THE MAYORS' STAND
IS INDEED MORE MODERATE THAN PAST STATEMENTS. ACCUSATION
OF AMERICAN CAPITULATIONIST PLOTS ARE ABSENT. REJECTION
OF 242-338 IS NOT STATED. ISRAELI "ATROCITIES" ARE NOT
REVIEWED. STILL, THERE IS NO HINT THAT WEST BANK
PALESTINIANS MIGHT CLAIM FROM THE PLO A LARGER ROLE IN
REPRESENTING THEIR OWN INTERESTS. AS BEST WE CAN JUDGE,
THE ELECTED LEADERSHIP STILL TRAILS BEHIND THE MAJORITY
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OF WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WHO WANT TO BELIEVE THAT SADAT
IS SINCERE AND MIGHT SUCCEED. CRITICISM OF THE PLO, WE
ARE TOLD, IS MORE BLATANT IN WEST BANK CIRCLES NOW THAN
EVER BEFORE. ON THE OTHER HAND, SADAT'S CRITICS CONTINUE
TO ARGUE EFFECTIVELY THAT UNTIL NOW THE ISRAELIS HAVE NOT
MADE THE SLIGHTEST BONA FIDE CONCESSION. SHOULD THE
ISRAELIS WANT TO STRIKE AT THE PLO'S WEST BANK SUPPORT
WITH A DRAMATIC GESTURE, THEY NOW HAVE THEIR BEST
OPPORTUNITY SINCE THE RABAT SUMMIT. IT WILL MEAN,
HOWEVER, THAT SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE PLO MUST BE PERCEIVED AS
HAVING A CHANCE TO EFFECT AN END TO THE OCCUPATION.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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